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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011
(Item 3 (b))

Programme 16
Economic development in Europe

1. At its 15th meeting, on 20 June 2008, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 16)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme, including the subregional work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

4. Support was expressed for the overall orientation of the programme, in particular activities related to the gender dimension of development. The view was expressed that that dimension should be maintained and strengthened and that a methodology of the approach to be applied by ECE for its implementation should be identified.

5. Satisfaction was expressed that ECE technical cooperation activities were directed at countries of eastern and south-eastern Europe, Central Asia and the

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Caucasus. The new expected accomplishment on trade and transport facilitation under subprogramme 2, Transport, was welcomed.

6. Under subprogramme 1, Environment, the view was expressed that it would have been desirable to include an indicator of achievement to reflect the increased number of actions taken to promote public access to environmental information, as contained in the approved biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009.

7. The focus of the proposed subprogramme 4, Economic cooperation and integration, was welcomed. It was noted, in that connection, that an enhanced reference in the subprogramme to new enterprises and emphasis on the increased number of new projects could have been useful. It was also observed that some proposed indicators of achievement for the proposed subprogramme could have been further refined.

8. The importance and relevance of subprogramme 3, Statistics, were emphasized. The view was expressed that international standards for statistics should continue to be formulated and be extended to an even wider audience.

9. The view was also expressed that certain elements of subprogramme 5, Sustainable energy, seemed difficult to quantify.

10. Clarification was sought in reference to the work of the Commission in the light of system-wide coherence.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. **The Committee stressed the importance of advancing the gender dimension related to the role of women in the economy and, in that regard, recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate consideration was given to such related issues.**

12. **The Committee expressed appreciation for the progress achieved in carrying out the activities to improve reliability and comparability of official statistics in subprogramme 3, Statistics, and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue and to intensify the development of standardization of statistical data, which was relevant to the work of the Organization throughout the United Nations system, and access to such data by the public.**

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Subprogramme 7
Timber and forestry

Objective of the Organization

Replace the text with the following: "to strengthen the forest sector and its contribution to sustainable development throughout the ECE region".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a) (iii), after "Sound use of wood", add ", for material and energy purposes,".

Strategy

Replace paragraphs 16.36 and 16.37 with the following and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

"16.36 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Timber Section of the Trade and Timber Division. The subprogramme will aim at developing and applying analytical and monitoring tools, both on policy and on developments on the ground, collecting, validating and disseminating information and analysis, as well as stimulating the exchange of experience, best practices and joint efforts to measure progress. It will provide a platform for topical discussions, taking into account the changing policy environment, notably as regards climate change and bioenergy. Moreover, it will promote the role of forests in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

"16.37 The subprogramme will promote the sustainable management of forests as well as the sound and legal use of forest products, for raw material and energy, and forest services, based on appropriate policies and institutions. Priorities for 2010-2011 will be guided by the outcome of the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, which placed emphasis through the Warsaw resolutions on "forests, wood and energy" and cross-sector coordination, including "forests and water." This has been affirmed by the outcome of the 2007-2008 strategic review, which placed major emphasis on climate change, bioenergy and wood mobilization. The importance of sustainable forest management, sector policies and institutions, forest products markets and cross-sectoral cooperation has been reaffirmed.

"16.38 While all countries benefit from international cooperation through the subprogramme, special attention will be paid to the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Mediterranean region to implement sustainable forest management through capacity-building activities and by promoting their involvement in international activities in the region.

"16.39 As part of the strategy to implement the subprogramme, ECE will carry out its work in cooperation with FAO and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, and provide regional input to the United Nations Forum on Forests and the FAO Committee on Forestry.

"16.40 To support forest management, including the use of wood and forest products, that is sustainable from the ecological, economic and social points of view, it is necessary to maintain a good balance between those three aspects, based on a strong consensus about goals and methods among all stakeholders and to ensure that the strategy is well integrated into the policy framework of other sectors (the cross-sectoral approach). Achieving sustainable forest management is primarily a sovereign national

responsibility. However, regional international cooperation, and interregional cooperation, through the timber and forestry subprogramme and its partners, will contribute by developing and disseminating concepts and information, through communication, the sharing of experience and the defining of standard measurement tools (indicators) for sustainable forest management."

Legislative mandates

Under "General Assembly resolutions", add "62/98 Non-legally binding instruments on all types of forests".